

ber and the beer trades. The Tasmanian blue gum (*Eucalyptus globulus*) and the stringy bark (*Eucalyptus obliqua*) are amongst the most valuable hardwood timbers of the world, and, even in the teeth of an almost prohibitive tariff, a certain quantity was always exported to the mainland, chiefly owing to the fact that the timber country is in close proximity to water carriage, and the handling and transport were, in consequence, comparatively economical. Now, with the abolition of the tariff, the demand must enormously increase, and when once a proper system of re-forestation is introduced, Tasmania must gain enormously and permanently from her wealth of forest lands. Lastly, it has been found that, owing to the temperate character of the climate and the excellence of the water supply, the beer which is brewed in Tasmania is very superior to the article produced on the mainland. Even before federation there was a considerable export; and now that the whole of Australia is open to the Tasmanian brewer, there seems every reason to believe that the brewing industry of Australasia will inevitably gravitate to the place where the climatic and general conditions are favourable to the production of the most superior article. In a brief sketch of this description it is impossible to do more than outline the new commercial tendencies which are at work in this part of Australasia, but enough has, perhaps, been said to show that, under federation, the island State of Tasmania is well worth the attention of the British manufacturer and the British capitalist.

Discussion on the paper was deferred till the 12th May.

Notes on a New Tasmanian Fish.

By Mr. R. M. Johnston, F.S.S.

Mr. Rodway, who takes a keen interest in all branches of the natural history of Tasmania, besides that of his loved science of botany, of which he is now our chief local authority, has recently submitted for my examination a small fish, preserved in spirits. Unfortunately, there was only one specimen obtained, and it is so shrivelled up that some of the ray characters cannot be very exactly determined. This specially applies to the anterior portion of the dorsal rays, which for nearly half the length of this fin are rudimentary or undeveloped, and closely enveloped in a somewhat thick and (now) opaque skin. However, the principal dental, scale, and other characters leave no doubt in my mind as to its true generic position, viz., the genus *Pseudochromis* of the family Trachinidae. The following contains a fuller description:—Family Trachinidae. Genus *Pseudochromis*.

Rupp. Head and body rather compressed, more or less elongate; cleft of the mouth slightly oblique, with the lower jaw longest; eye lateral. Scales of moderate size, ciliated; lateral line interrupted. One dorsal with a few spines anteriorly; ventrals thoracic; the lower pectoral rays branched; jaws with cardiform teeth, anterior with canines; vomer and palatine bones toothed. Praeoperculum entire. Six branchiostegals; the gill-membranes joined inferiorly; pseudo-branchiae and air bladder present; pyloric appendages none. Indian Seas. Port Darwin, Macquarie Harbour, Tasmania. *Pseudochromis rodwayi* R. M. Johnston, D.3.26—27. A. 3.17. P. 17. L. lat. 50° L. tr. 11. The height of the body is nearly five times in the total length; the length of the head four and a half. In front of both jaws there are markedly curved canine teeth, the three in the lower jaw the stronger; there are, besides narrow bands of small canine teeth on jaws, vomer and palatine bones; no spines on the operculum. Dorsal and anal produced posteriorly; half of the anterior portion of the former undeveloped or rudimentary, and enveloped for the most part in a somewhat thick (now) opaque, skinny integument. The number of spines on dorsal probably three, but not determined satisfactorily. Diameter of the eye nearly equal to width of inter-orbital space, and greater than the length of the snout. Colour in spirits a uniform darkish brown. This interesting little fish is only about 3.6-8-in. in length, and is somewhat of the general appearance of one of our common shore blennies. Mr. Rodway informs me that the fish was captured by Mr. Hinsby, an enthusiastic collector, in or near Macquarie Harbour. It is to be hoped that he may soon obtain a few more specimens, in order to settle a few doubtful points in some of the characters. It is remarkable that, with the exception of a single member of the genus (*P. muelleri*), described by Klunzinger from Port Darwin, this is the first member of the genus caught in Australian waters. The specific name is given by me in honour of our own distinguished botanist, Mr. L. Rodway.

Votes of Thanks.

The Hon. Adye Douglas (President of the Legislative Council) moved, and the Hon. N. E. Lewis (Premier) seconded, a vote of thanks to the president, which was cordially passed.

The President moved a vote of thanks to the readers of the three papers, which was also agreed to.

Members and the ladies present then adjourned to the large room, where refreshments were partaken of.

NEW ADDITIONS TO THE TASMANIAN MUSEUM AND ART GALLERY.

During the Parliamentary session of 1900 a vote of £4,000 was passed for additions to the Tasmanian Museum and Art Gallery, and it was decided to entrust the preparation of plans and specifications to the Public Works Department.

The original design, prepared by the late Mr. Hy. Hunter, in 1869, has been adhered to externally, as far as practicable, but the interior has been altered considerably to bring it more up to date; when the original design was made iron girders, steel joists, etc., were not available, and columns were necessary to support the upper floor. Now they have been dispensed with, and the whole floor space is clear in the new building.

Tenders for the work were invited in December, 1900, and Mr. W. H. Cheverton's, at £4,197 was the lowest, and was accepted. The work was commenced in January 1901, and the corner stone laid by His Excellency the Administrator (Sir J. S. Dodds), on the 20th March, 1901.

The front portion, facing Macquarie-street, is built of white and brown stone from Brighton and the Hobart Waterworks quarries. In the upper part of this front are three niches, which are proposed to be filled with statuary, etc., at some future date. The side and back walls are built of brick. The Museum and Art Gallery floors are each 93ft. in length, and 26ft. in width. A very ornamental embossed steel and zinc ceiling has been fixed in the Museum. The roof over the Art Gallery is open to the collar beam, and lined with pine boarding, painted in light tints, suitable for picture gallery. The roof is covered with

Welsh slate. It is lighted with eleven large skylights, all the glass being fixed in specially prepared lead grooves, and no putty whatever is used in the glazing, as is usually done, consequently there will be no fear of shrinkage and leakage. Ventilation has been amply provided, there being three large air pump ventilators fixed in the roof, which connect to large galvanised iron shafts, with ornamental zinc ventilating centres fixed in the ceiling. Fresh air is admitted through 13 large air shafts about 7ft. above the floor. Tasmanian blackwood garrail rails upon turned blackwood newels are fixed round the gallery to protect the pictures from injury. An ornamental staircase of special design, made out of Tasmanian blackwood and Huon pine, gives the visitor easy access from the trophy room to the Art Gallery.

The open court between the old portion of Museum and new additions has been utilised and enclosed by brick walls, and the whole space (61ft. by 56ft.) covered with a very neat and light-looking iron roof, abundance of light being provided through a large lantern light in the centre and skylights round the sides over the windows of the old building. The roof is covered with galvanised corrugated iron, laid upon roofing felt, and the underside lined with colonial stringy bark boarding; the portion under the lantern, being varnished, has very much the appearance of English oak.

The whole of the work has been satisfactorily carried out by the contractors, Messrs. W. H. Cheverton and Son, and sub-contractors, under the personal supervision of Mr. J. Shield, Inspector of Public Buildings, and his assistant, Mr. J. Maddison, Clerk of Works, and the architect, Mr. Orlando Baker.